

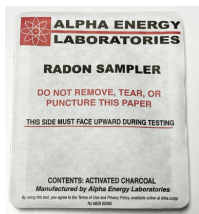
# WHAT IS RADON TESTING?

**Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among people who have never smoked.** It also greatly increases risk of lung cancer amongst those who do smoke. It is an odorless, clear gas emitted from rocks and soil in some areas. It can get into homes and increase residents' cancer risk. Radon testing is the only way to find out if there is radon in your home. There are several kinds of radon test kits. Choose a testing method that best suits you!

## 1 CHOOSING A TEST KIT

### SHORT-TERM KIT

Short-term radon tests are the **cheapest** and most **accessible** tools.



#### FACTS:

- Placed for 2 - 90 days
- Cost for test and lab fees is about \$12

### LONG-TERM KIT

Long-term radon tests collect radon data over a long period of time and provide the **best estimate of annual average radon level.**



#### FACTS:

- Placed for 90 to 365 days
- Cost \$20-\$35
- Often used to double check radon levels after a short-term test

## WHERE DO I GET THEM?

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You can buy radon test kits in hardware stores or online. The following organizations sell radon testing kits:

[American Lung Association](#)

[Kansas State University's National Radon Program Services](#)

[NYSDOH Radon Program](#)

Check with your county health department as they may have more information on available resources. Some municipalities may provide them for free for locals.

## 2 USING A TEST KIT

Check your test kit's packaging for specific instructions! Testing your home for radon usually follows a few simple steps:

1. Close all the windows in your home to minimize air flow.
2. Place the device in the lowest level of your home that people spending time in.
3. Follow the instructions on the package, then leave the test kit for the designated amount of time.
4. Return the kit to the manufacturer's lab, as instructed.
5. Most labs will send your results within a week.

**Don't know what to do next?**  
Check the back page!



### 3 UNDERSTANDING YOUR TEST RESULTS

The average radon level of an American home is around 1.3 pCi/L (picocuries per liter), but certain places have an increased risk of higher radon levels. Use the chart below to determine what you should do next based on your home's radon level.

Higher than 4 pCi/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If you used a short-term test: Take a second test using either a short-term or long-term test. If you use a second short-term test, calculate the average of the two results.</li><li>• Contact a licensed professional to install a radon reduction system if: The average of two short term tests is <math>\geq 4</math> pCi/L, or results from any long-term test are also <math>\geq 4</math> pCi/L.</li><li>• Make sure you retest a few months after your home is fixed to see if radon levels were reduced.</li></ul>
Between 2 pCi/L and 4 pCi/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consider installing a radon reduction system.</li><li>• Make sure you retest a few months after your home is fixed to see if radon levels were reduced.</li></ul>
Lower than 2 pCi/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No action needed.</li><li>• Test your home again if you start living on a lower level (for example, if you turn your basement into a home office or extra bedroom).</li></ul>

*SOURCE: Center for Disease Control and Prevention*

Developed by the University of Rochester Environmental Health Sciences Center with support from National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences grant P30 ES001247.

**Last updated 10/01/2024**

## MY HOME HAS HIGH RADON LEVELS. SO, WHAT NOW?

### MITIGATION

If your home has high radon, you may want to consider mitigation. Radon reduction systems can greatly reduce your home's radon levels. Costs vary based on the extent of the problem and approach used.

Looking for a contractor? Scan the QR code for the NYSDOH's list of certified radon mitigation contractors operation within each county.



Contact the NYSDOH Radon Program if you have any further questions:

PHONE: (518) 402-7556

EMAIL: radon@health.ny.gov

<https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/radon/mitigators.htm>

### GRANTS & LOANS

Need helping paying for mitigation? Scan the QR code below to go to the NYSDOH's radon mitigation page. Grant/Loan information will be found under the "Funding for Radon Mitigation" tab.



<https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/radon/mitigation.htm>

